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USD Scholars to Assess "Health of Human Spirit"

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NEWS RELEASE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO



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USD SCHOLARS TO ASSESS
"HEALTH OF HUMAN SPIRIT"

USD faculty will assess the "health of the human spirit" during a two-day seminar, "The Spiritual Situation of the Age," on Friday and Saturday, June 21-22 at USD.

The conference speakers will address the question of how the issues of spirituality interact with today's social, political and economic issues.

Topics range from the justice system to the nuclear arms race to an economic view of Nicaragua.

Father Ron Pachence, director of the USD Graduate Program in Practical Theology, said the graduate program decided to sponsor the conference because "authentic Christian spirituality involves more than saving one's own soul.

"Getting outside of ourselves and addressing the needs of people and problems of the world is what our conference is about. Our lives should involve the renewal of all life. . . Jesus healed the sick. We must work toward healing the ills of human beings."

According to Dr. Helen deLaurentis, director of the graduate religious education program, the growing interest

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in the convergence of religious and social concerns fits into the world prompted the graduate program to sponsor the conference.

The conference line-up, put together by Joseph Colombo, represents different disciplines which bring a variety of perspectives to the conference.

Colombo hopes the conference will "foster an interdisciplinary dialogue to address questions which otherwise fall between the cracks in the academic division of labor. There's no seamless garment to be presented at the conference, but simply an attempt to raise the questions in a public forum."

Topics and speakers include:

-- "Nicaragua: An Economic Experiment with a Religious Base," by Dr. Joan Anderson, associate professor of economics.

-- "Towards a Contemporary Christian Spirituality Today: Dangerous Memories and the Interest in Freedom, by Colombo, assistant professor of religious studies.

-- "Faith, Star Wars and Charity," by Dr. Patrick Drinan, political science professor.

-- "The Justice System: Power and Hope," by Sister Sally Furay, USD Provost and professor of law and English.

-- "The Future of the Virtues: The Limits of Individual Response to Contemporary Moral Problems," by Dr. Lawrence M. Hinman, philosophy professor.

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-- "On Being Thy Brother's (and Sister's) Keeper:
Social Inequality and Social Justice in the United States,"
by Dr. Michael Soroka, associate professor of sociology.

The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. Friday and closes 4
p.m. Saturday. All sessions will be held in the Grace
Courtroom on the third floor of the USD law school.

Pre-registration is \$40 and registration at the door is
\$50. For more information, please call 260-4600, ext. 4281.

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